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Le Sueur River Watershed Network Community Meeting & Paddle on Tuesday, June 30, featuring Patrick Belmont

The Le Sueur River Watershed Network is hosting a meeting on June 30, 2015, from 6:00-7:30 PM at Pemberton Main Street Plaza. Come learn about the latest Le Sueur River research from Utah State Professor Patrick Belmont and learn from watershed neighbors the types of projects they are working on to improve the health of the Le Sueur River watershed. Prior to the community meeting, we will be hosting a guided paddle will start at 4:00 PM at Blue Earth County Road 16 to Red Jacket Trail Park. The public is invited to this free event to learn and join the conversation. You are welcome to join a free paddle or meeting or both.

During the paddle, participants will have the opportunity to see firsthand, the erosion and sedimentation concerns in downstream sections of the watershed. Belmont will show areas he has been monitoring the last few years, along with natural formations in the channel and how they are affected by rapid increases in water level during peak flows. The Mankato Paddling & Outings Club and Scott Kudelka, MNDNR, will be providing canoes, and seats are limited to please RSVP to reserve a spot. Following the paddle, there will be light snacks provided by the Network's Steering Committee and time to switch gears for the formal meeting.

The community meeting will start at 6:00 PM with updates around the watershed, along with an introduction to one of the latest projects in the watershed – supporting a grant for a ditchshed (JD9 system). The Network's Steering Committee voted to write a letter of endorsement for the project, to ensure there is no net increase in water leaving the ditchshed. As a part of integrating health water and land management we need to understand how the whole system works. Belmont will provide a brief summary of what has been learned in the past few years about the Le Sueur River watershed hydrology and sediment dynamics. One of the trends that keeps popping up in these studies is that watersheds dominated by agriculture are impaired by excess sediment due to alterations in land use and climate. Due to the Le Sueur River watershed's geology and topography, the watershed is especially sensitive. After Belmont's brief presentation, he will open up it up to the room for questions and discussion.

The event is hosted by the Le Sueur River Watershed Network. This group of citizens and local staff has been meeting since April of 2012 to discuss ways to improve the water quality of the Le Sueur River Watershed. This 711,838 acre watershed in Blue Earth, Waseca, Steele, Le Sueur, Faribault, and Freeborn counties is a major contributor of sediment and nutrients to the Minnesota River. Last spring, eight people stepped forward to serve as the Network's Steering Committee to guide this growing network and further the recommendations they developed. These recommendations include seven steps that can be taken to improve water quality in the watershed. The list was developed by a focus group of farmers, recreational users, homeowners, and agencies throughout a series of meetings last year. Now, the Network is looking to start implementing those recommendations to help improve the Le Sueur River Watershed for future generations.

The event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about the watershed or the citizen-led watershed group. For more information about what local landowners in collaboration with local government and state agencies are doing, visit the Le Sueur River Watershed Network's website: lesueurriver.org. Please pre-register by Friday, June 26th, by emailing or calling: jessica.nelson-1@mnsu.edu, 507-389-2704, or mrbscr@eventis.com 507-388-7023.

COMMUNITY MEETING & PADDLE

LE SUEUR RIVER WATERSHED NETWORK

Join the Le Sueur River Watershed Network in a conversation with river researcher, Patrick Belmont, about past and present trends in water quantity and quality. Join us on a tour of the the Le Sueur River in canoes, followed by a community meeting in Pemberton where you will have the opportunity to learn about Belmont's work across the watershed. You are welcome to come for one or both parts. Steering Committee members will provide a snack to share.

Tuesday, June 30, 2015
Pemberton Main Street Plaza
141 4th St, Pemberton, MN
4:00 & 6:00-7:30 PM



Tour the Le Sueur River
Travel down the river with Patrick Belmont to learn the trends researchers are seeing, and how they measure in-channel widening and sediment transport.

Hear about projects happening around the watershed

Learn what other watershed neighbors and local conservation staff are trying to accomplish within the watershed.



Engage in a discussion about trends and concerns in the watershed

Join the conversation about changes in the Le Sueur system with Patrick Belmont, a Professor at Utah State University. He has been studying the river since 2007.



AGENDA

4:00-5:45 PM Paddle the Le Sueur River with Patrick Belmont as our guide

5:45-6:00 Informal Discussions

6:00-6:30 Welcome / Announcements / Watershed Updates

6:30-7:30 Large Group Discussion with Patrick Belmont

Everyone is welcome
Bring a friend and pass it along to anyone who might be interested

Please call or email to RSVP for the paddle due to limited canoe seats
Call: 507-389-2704
email: jessica.nelson-1@mnsu.edu



QUESTIONS?
Le Sueur River Watershed Network - lesueurriver.org
Contact: Jessica Nelson 507-389-2704, or Mark Bosacker 507-388-7023

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